24th August 1955]

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Sir, have the Government any faith in water divining? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The divining by the water diviners has been tried, and it has not been altogether unsuccessful."

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Is the Leader of the House aware that the other day the Hon. the Minister for Public Health said, ' I do not believe in this water diviner, it is all a myth like various other things '? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I may tell the hon. Member that the Government in the Health Ministry does not employ any diviners."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

Mr. CHAIRMAN :—" I have to announce to the House that I have received the following message, dated the 24th August 1955, from the Deputy Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly :—

' In accordance with Rule 114 of the Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Cultivating Tenants' Protection Bill, 1955 (L.A. Bill No. 11 of 1955), as passed by the Legislative Assembly on the twenty-fourth day of August 1955, and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council.' "

III.—STATEMENT UNDER RULE 41 (1) OF THE COUNCIL RULES.

* Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, under Rule 41 (1) of the Council Rules, I wish to call the attention of the Minister for Local Administration to the Election notice published on 22nd August 1955 by the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, as returning officer in the Elections to the Corporation of Madras showing the list of valid nominations in which the candidates are designated as Mudaliar, Naidu, Adi-Dravida, Non-Brahman, Brahman, etc., and in fact, one candidate is designated as ' Koravan ' in spite of the Government Order ordering omission of the term ' Adi-Dravidas ' in official records and designating them as Harijans. Publication of such communal details is opposed to the spirit of our Constitution. As such election notices are to be published in the case of all municipalities and considering the urgency on account of the elections thereto, I bring this to the notice of the Minister."

Sri V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—" The Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, has stated that the whole of India should be united. He has used the word ' casteism '. He has said that ' casteism ' should be abolished. This ' casteism ' is against the spirit as well as the express declaration of our leading statesman and others. The members of these communities would prefer to have their community names deleted."

* Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, there cannot be a discussion on the statement that has been made under Rule 41."

* The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI :—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, instructions for the omission of ' caste ' or ' tribe ' of voters in the printed list of electoral rolls were issued by Government in June 1953. These instructions are being carried out by the Electoral Revision Officers in preparing the consolidated electoral rolls to be reprinted as a single roll. The electoral roll of the City of Madras is being revised and consolidated only this year. This roll will come into force only with effect from 1st October 1955, or the date of its publication, whichever is later. Hence, the basic rolls of 1948 revised and brought up to 1954, which are in force in the City now and which contain entries relating to caste, tribe, etc., are being followed for the ensuing elections to the Corporation. So the mention of caste, tribe, etc., in the list of valid nominations, based upon the nomination forms, filed by the candidates and published by the Commissioner of the Corporation who is the Returning Officer for the Corporation elections, is in order."

IV.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS SALES OF MOTOR SPIRIT TAXATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1955 (L.A. BILL NO. 22 OF 1955).

* The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Sir, I move—

' *That the Madras Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation (Amendment) Bill* [a], *1955 (L.A. Bill No. 22 of 1955), as passed by the Assembly, be taken into consideration.*'

Under the Act now in force, the returns to be furnished by the importers and wholesale dealers and others of the sale cf motor spirit are embodied in the Act itself. It has been represented that giving the particulars in a date-war return entails a lot of clerical work and laborious task. It has been found that so far in the working of the Act there has not been any suppression of facts, and the parties have been submitting the returns all right. Such returns of forms and returns of sales are usually provided for in the rules to be framed under the Act. But somehow in this piece of legislation that is not so. The purpose of this Act is to make provision under the rules for the returns of the particulars of sales of motor spirit. But if this is to be provided for in the Act itself, the Government will have to come before the Assembly every now and then for any small thing that requires alteration or amendment according to the circumstances of the case. That is why this Bill is brought forward."

Mr. CHAIRMAN :—" Motion moved—

' That the Madras Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1955 (L.A. Bill No. 22 of 1955), as passed by the Assembly, be taken into consideration.' "

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[a] **Printed as Appendix II on pages 450–451 *infra*.**